

REMARKS

In light of the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Amended claims 1-4 and 6-7 and claim 5 are in this application.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Honjo (U.S. 5,337,088).

Amended independent claim 1 recites in part as follows:

“...when the image data is read in the unit of block consisting of the predetermined number of pixels and the read image data is short of the unit of block, compensating for a short amount thereof by adding thereto image data from an end side of an image from the image data stored in the memory means.”

(Underlining and bold added for emphasis.)

In explaining the above 102 rejection, the Examiner appears to rely on Fig. 2 and column 3, lines 20-56 of Honjo to disclose the above-recited feature of amended claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the portions of Honjo relied upon by the Examiner (hereinafter “Honjo”) do not disclose “compensating for a short amount thereof by adding thereto image data from an end side of an image from the image data stored in the memory means” as in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, the present processing method of claim 1 adds image data to compensate for a short amount. On the other hand, in Honjo, as shown in Fig. 2, each block consists of 8 pixels (1-8 and 9-16). In order to correct the level difference between pixel 8 and pixel 9, the method of Honjo uses the levels of pixel 8 and 9 to correct their respective levels. As such, Honjo appears to take existing pixel levels and correct them using those levels. Honjo does not appear to compensate for a short amount by adding image data from an end side of an image. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be distinguishable from Honjo.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is therefore believed to be distinguishable from Honjo for at least the reasons previously described.

Claims 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Honjo in view of Nozawa (US 6,360,018).

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 3, 6, and 7 are believed to be distinguishable from Honjo. The Examiner

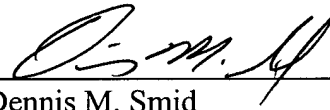
does not appear to have relied upon Nozawa to overcome the above-described deficiencies of Honjo. Accordingly, claims 3, 6 and 7, and claims 4-5 dependent from claim 3, are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Honjo and Nozawa.

In the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where, in the reference or references, there is the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: _____


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